

an inclined plane from the axilla. An attentive examination of the arm, axilla, shoulder, and breast, led to the discovery of nothing that explained the singular and abnormal swelling. The inclined position caused no change in it for several days. Her general health was excellent. The swelling of the limb was more evident in the morning and during the day, and greater in the arm than in the forearm and hand. It did not, however, resemble an ordinary œdema; the pressure of the fingers left no depression, nor was the skin hard, doughy or otherwise diseased. Early one morning, the patient was surprised with a tight ligature, which she had placed during the night, round the upper part of the arm near the axilla, which had strangled the circulation. The following day, not having a cord to tie round the arm, she produced the same effect by pushing up the sleeve of her chemise, and twisting the edge of it strongly, so as to compress the limb. The deception could be easily perceived on carefully examining the superior part of the limb, where a circular mark was observed made by the ligature.—*Ibid.*, March 1848, from the *Annales de Thérapeutique*. T. R. B.

MISCELLANEOUS.

76. *The Influenza which prevailed in London in 1847-48.*—Dr. WEBSTER brought this subject under the notice of the Westminster Medical Society, not so much to describe the symptoms characterizing the existing epidemic, as to mention a few facts which appeared of interest respecting its very great prevalence and mortality. According to his own observations, almost all the cases were accompanied by remarkable prostration of strength, of a much more decided character than during the former epidemic influenza. The pulse was usually very feeble: the extremities were often felt exceedingly cold, notwithstanding the mild temperature of the weather; and the pectoral affection generally present, although sometimes apparently of an inflammatory nature, was seldom so in reality. The general type of the complaint was asthenic, as exhaustion, debility, and depression of the system were the marked features of this malady throughout all its stages. According to the Registrar-General's reports, the disease, although rather prevalent in London during last November, did not prove very fatal until early in December. The deaths, in the second and third week of the former month, were only four in each of those two periods: but in that ending the 27th November, thirty-six deaths are reported from influenza. It was, however, during the first three weeks of Dec., that this epidemic malady proved most fatal, 842 deaths having then occurred in the metropolis, in a gross mortality of 6816; thus making the deaths from influenza 12·35 per cent. of the whole. Of these, 421, or exactly one-half, occurred in persons above sixty years of age; whereas, less than one-fourth, or only 193 individuals, under fifteen years of age, were carried off by this epidemic during the same period. Contrasted with the above results, the deaths from the same complaint during the first three weeks of the current month of January had been considerably less than half the number which took place in the first three weeks of December, being 331 in a gross mortality of 4420, or only 7·48 per cent. of the whole, instead of 12·35 per cent., as in the previous instance. It is also curious that, unlike the results observed in the early part of last December, the majority of deaths from influenza during the first three weeks of January had occurred in persons under fifteen years of age, their number being 128; whereas only 102 individuals sixty years old and upwards died during the same period from this complaint. The gross mortality from all diseases has been much greater throughout the metropolitan districts during the present winter than for many years past, and even since the great plague, 12,483 deaths, or nearly double the ordinary number, have occurred during seven weeks, of which 1315, or 10·53 per cent., were from influenza. The deaths reported as from influenza in the week ending January 15th, had, however, fallen to 102; whereas, during the week ending the 11th of December last, the fatal cases from the same complaint had increased to 372, or more than three times the subsequent amount. During the first three weeks of December, when the epidemic was most prevalent and fatal, the temperature of the weather was remarkably high for the season of the year, it being

often 56° or even 57°, the mean temperature of the whole period being 47° Fahr. The atmosphere was also very moist. The wind continued constantly south-west or south, and generally blew strong, whilst during the week in which the mortality from influenza was greatest—viz., in the week ending the 11th of December—the wind was often very high, and even stormy. On the other hand, during the three weeks ending the 15th of January, when the frequency and severity of the epidemic had so much declined, the weather had become much less moist, or even dry, and was generally calm in comparison, whilst the prevailing winds were either easterly or northerly. The temperature of the air also ranged from seven to thirteen degrees under the average of the previous period, the mean height of the thermometer having indicated thirty-four during the first week, forty in the second, and thirty-six in the third. Speaking generally, Dr. Webster's own plan of treatment was almost always stimulating and tonic—the reverse of antiphlogistic. The usual remedies he employed consisted of antimonial powder, with extract of conium or hyoscyamus, and small doses of ipecacuanha, to allay cough and bronchial irritation. Ammonia, senna, cascarilla, cusparia, with nitric acid and quinine, proved frequently most useful, particularly the latter remedy, towards the end of the attack. When aperients were required, the mildest were only admissible, such as castor oil, &c., and the strength should be supported by beef-tea, mutton-broth, arrow-root, light and nutritious diet, with wine, and even brandy, all liquids being given warm. The patient remained in bed, and the horizontal position was enjoined (by Dr. Webster), with warm applications to the extremities, when necessary; and mustard poultices, or sometimes blisters, were applied, but the former remedy was generally preferable. Bleeding, or depletion in any form, according to all but universal consent, was considered improper, and, if ever employed, proved injurious: even tartarized antimony, so frequently useful in apparently similar complaints, at other seasons, he (Dr. Webster) found not only inferior to ipecacuanha, in the recent epidemic, but often inadmissible, from the depressing effects it produced upon the system.—*London Medical Gazette*, February, 1848.

77. *Re-Vaccinations in the Prussian Army in 1847.*—The total number of men vaccinated was 43,264; the number of those who bore marks of a former vaccination in a decided manner, 34,264; ditto with the marks not very distinct, 6,405; ditto with the marks not visible at all, 2,927. The vaccine virus developed itself satisfactorily in 25,544; very irregularly in 7,425; and not at all in 10,627. The vaccinations which had yielded no results were repeated; they acted in 2,718; and failed entirely in 8,952 cases. In consequence of the present vaccination, there were developed from one to five vaccine pustules upon 13,295; from six to ten upon 8,164; from eleven to twenty upon 5,767; from twenty-one to thirty upon 1,036 of the men. Amongst those who were vaccinated in the year 1847, there was, within the same year, no case of varicella, none of actual small-pox, and one only of chicken-pox. The lymph was obtained from vaccinated children or grown-up persons. It is remarkable that amongst those who were subjected to re-vaccination there were several who had had the small-pox before, yet upon whom the vaccine matter produced the usual pustules.—*Lancet*, June 17, 1848.